

imin assumed an even more aggressive bearing (ta//// *audacius cornua*| urged more peremptorily than ever his superior right, and spurned Galerius's entreaties and commands. Then,—Lactantius goes on to say, —overborne by Maximin's stubborn obstinacy, Galcrius offered a compromise, by naming himself and Licinius as August! and Maximin and Constantine as Sons of the August!, instead of simple Coisars.

But Maximin was obdurate and wrote saying that his soldiers had taken the law into their own hands and had already saluted him as Augustus. Galerius therefore, in the face of the accomplished fact, gave way and recognised not only Maximin but Constantine also as full August!. Such is the story of Lactantius. It will be noted that the name of Maxentius is not mentioned. He is treated as non-existent. There need be no surprise that nothing is said of Diocletian and Maximian, for they were ex-Augusti, so to speak, though still bearing the courtesy title. But if Maxentius had been recognised as one of the "Imperial Brothers " at the conference of Carnuntum, the omission of his name by Lactantius is exceedingly strange. From his account we should judge that the policy decided upon at Carnuntum was to restore the fourfold system of Diocletian in the persons of Galerius, Licinius, Maximin, and Constantine, taking precedence in the order named. When Maximin refused to be content with his old title of C;usar or to accept the new one of Son of Augustus, and insisted on being acknowledged as Augustus, the system broke down anew. At the beginning of 308, there were no fewer than seven